

## CLAIMS

1           1. A method for the secure transmission of documents comprising the  
2 steps of:

3           using a security program at a sending location for creating an en-  
4 crypted file including an executable program with the document;

5           transmitting said encrypted file to a remote recipient;

6           receiving said encrypted file at a location lacking said security  
7 program;

8           executing, at the receiving location, the received said executable  
9 program; and

10          decrypting said received file using said received program.

1           2. The method of Claim 1, further including the steps of:

2           including a pass phrase as a part of said executable program to prevent  
3 unauthorized decryption of the received said encrypted file.

1           3. The method of Claim 2, further including said pass phrase in the  
2 encryption algorithm used in the creation of said encrypted file.

1           4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said executable program includes, as  
2 a step when running, a verification step for confirming the integrity of the  
3 received file.

1           5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of creating includes a file  
2 compression step prior to the encryption of said file.

1           6. The method of Claim 1, further including a secure reply option  
2 comprising the steps of:

3           providing, in said executable program, a option for a secure reply;

4           electing, at said receiving end, the secure reply option;

5           using said received executable program to create a secure reply file  
6 similar to that created by the security program at the transmitting end;

7           transmitting said secure reply file from said remote location to said  
8 sending location; and

9           using said security program at said sending location to decrypt said  
10 secure reply file,

11 whereby a receiving location lacking a security program can receive secure  
12 messages and send secure replies.

1           7. The method of Claim 6, further including the steps of including a  
2 pass phrase in the creation of said secure file and wherein said received

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3 executable program requires said pass phrase for execution of said transmit-  
4 ted program.

1 8. The method of Claim 6, further including the step of verifying the  
2 integrity of said secure reply file at said transmitting location.

1 9. Apparatus for the secure transmission of documents comprising:  
2 creating means including a security program at a sending location for  
3 creating an encrypted file incorporating an executable program with the  
4 document;  
5 means for transmitting said encrypted file to a remote recipient;  
6 means for receiving said encrypted file at a location lacking said  
7 security program;  
8 means for executing, at the receiving location, the received said  
9 executable program; and  
10 means responsive to the running of said executable program for decrypt-  
11 ing said received file.

1 10. The apparatus of Claim 9, further including:  
2 means for including a pass phrase as a part of said executable program  
3 to prevent unauthorized decryption of the received said encrypted file.

1 11. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said creating means include  
2 said pass phrase in the encryption algorithm used in the creation of said  
3 encrypted file.

1 12. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said means for executing  
2 include, verification means for confirming the integrity of the received  
3 file.

1 13. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said creating means include  
2 compression means for compressing a file prior to the encryption of said  
3 file.

1 14. The apparatus of Claim 9, further including means for creating a  
2 secure reply comprising:  
3 selecting means in said executable program for choosing a secure reply;  
4 means at said receiving end for creating a secure reply including means  
5 responsive to said received executable program for creating a secure reply  
6 file similar to that created by the security program at the transmitting end;  
7 means at said remote location for transmitting said secure reply file  
8 from said remote location to said sending location; and  
9 means for executing said security program at said sending location to

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10 decrypt said secure reply file,  
11 whereby a receiving location lacking a security program can receive secure  
12 messages and send secure replies.

1 15. The apparatus of Claim 14, further including means for including a  
2 pass phrase in the creation of said secure file and wherein said received  
3 executable program is responsive to said pass phrase for execution of said  
4 transmitted program.

1 16. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said means for executing  
2 include means for verifying the integrity of said secure reply file at said  
3 transmitting location.

1 17. A method for the secure transmission of documents comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3 using a security program at a sending location for creating an en-  
4 crypted file including an executable program with the document;  
5 transmitting said encrypted file to a remote recipient;  
6 receiving said encrypted file at a location lacking said security  
7 program;  
8 executing, at the receiving location, the received said executable  
9 program;  
10 connecting to a predetermined site on a global computer network;  
11 retrieving from said predetermined site a suitable executable program  
12 for decrypting said received encrypted file and  
13 decrypting said received file using said retrieved program.

1 18. The method of Claim 17, further including the steps of:  
2 including a pass phrase as a part of said executable program to enable  
3 said predetermined site to download said suitable executable program thereby  
4 preventing unauthorized decryption of the received said encrypted file.

1 19. The method of Claim 18, further including said pass phrase in the  
2 encryption algorithm used in the creation of said encrypted file.

1 20. The method of Claim 17, wherein said suitable executable program  
2 includes, as a step when running, a verification step for confirming the  
3 integrity of the received file.

1 21. The method of Claim 17, wherein the step of creating includes a  
2 file compression step prior to the encryption of said file.

1 22. The method of Claim 17, further including a secure reply option

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24. The method of Claim 22, further including the step of verifying the integrity of said secure reply file at said transmitting location.

25. Apparatus for the secure transmission of documents comprising:  
 creating means including a security program at a sending location for  
 creating an encrypted file incorporating an executable program with the  
 document;  
 means for transmitting said encrypted file to a remote recipient;  
 means for receiving said encrypted file at a location lacking said  
 security program;  
 means for executing, at the receiving location, the received said  
 executable program;  
 means responsive to the running of said executable program for contact-  
 ing a predetermined site on the global computer network for retrieving a  
 suitable executable program for decrypting said received file.

26. The apparatus of Claim 25, further including:  
means for including a pass phrase as a part of said executable program to enable communication with said predetermined site to authorize downloading of said suitable executable program and to prevent unauthorized decryption of the received said encrypted file.

27. The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein said creating means include said pass phrase in the encryption algorithm used in the creation of said

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7        instructing said second global computer network site to take a selected

8 action;  
9 whereby a receiving location lacking a security program can receive secure  
10 messages and send instructions to a selected global computer network site.

1 34. The method of Claim 33, further including the steps of including a  
2 pass phrase in the creation of said secure file and wherein said received  
3 executable program requires said pass phrase for acquisition of said suitable  
4 executable program.

1 35. The method of Claim 33 further including the step of sending a  
2 receipt confirmation to said sending location.

1 36. The method of Claim 33, further including the step of directing  
2 said selected second global computer network site to send a confirmation  
3 message to said sending location.

1 37. The apparatus of Claim 25, further including means for creating a  
2 reply comprising:  
3 communicating means in said suitable executable program for contacting  
4 a second predetermined global communication network site;and  
5 means at said remote location for transmitting a predetermined instruc-  
6 tion to said second global computer network site.

1 38. The apparatus of Claim 37, further including means for transmit-  
2 ting a receipt confirmation to said sending location.

1 39. The apparatus of Claim 37, further including means for directing  
2 said second global computer network site to send a receipt confirmation to  
3 said sending location.

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